Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Communication & Education

The Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Communications and Education requires a minimum of 48 semester hours of graduate coursework along with the development of a dissertation (12 hours) beyond a Master’s degree (total of 60 hours post-master’s degree). The purpose of the degree program is to provide an opportunity for advance study in the human dimensions of agriculture (agricultural communications, agricultural education, & agricultural leadership) for students and to meet the growing demand for college and university faculty who can provide instruction in more than one dimension. This degree will provide a resident experience specifically designed to prepare students for the rigors of a faculty position including successful scholarship in academic and research appointments.

At or near the end of course work, the student will take a qualifying examination that requires a synthesis and application of knowledge acquired during the course of study for the doctoral student. The major portion of the examination is ordinarily a written exam requiring at least sixteen hours spread over four business days. This qualifying examination process also includes an oral examination under the supervision of the committee and any other professors who may be invited to participate.

CURRICULUM (Minimum of 60 course credit hours beyond master’s)

**Foundation (9 hours)**

Designed to prepare graduates with the essential foundations for success in 21st century academic institutions. Students are required to complete each of the Department’s three foundation courses.

- ACOM 5306 Foundations of Agricultural Communications
- AGED 5306 History & Philosophy of Agricultural and Extension Education
- AGLS 5304 Theoretical Foundation of Agricultural Leadership

**Core (18 hours)**

Designed to prepare graduates with the essential foundations for success in 21st century academic institutions. Nine of the eighteen hours will be gained through three required courses while the rest are selected to help each student towards their individual career goals and interests.

**Required (9 hours)**

- AGED 5308 Foundations of Adult Education
- AGED 5310 College Teaching in Agriculture
- AGED 6301 The Professorate

**Optional (select 9 hours)**

- ACOM 5302 Knowledge Management in Agricultural and Natural Resources
- ACOM 5304 Risk and Crisis Communications in Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ACOM 5307 Methods of Technological Change
- ACOM 5308 Utilizing Online Media in Agricultural Communications
• AGED 5305 Program Development in Agricultural and Extension Education
• AGED 5309 Evaluation of Programs in Vocational, Technical, and Extension Education
• AGED 5311 Human Dimension of International Agricultural Development
• AGED 5313 Educational Opportunities
• AGED 7100 Graduate Seminar (may be repeated)
• AGLS 5305 Developing Leadership in Rural Communities
• AGLS 5306 Contemporary Issues in Agricultural Leadership
• AGLS 5307 Evaluating Leadership in Agricultural Organizations
• AGLS 5308 International Experiences in Agricultural Leadership

Research and Statistics (21 hours)

Designed to prepare graduates in quantitative and qualitative research methodologies as well as advanced data analysis techniques. Three courses (9 hours) are required of all students. The remaining 12 hours will be determined with the student’s graduate committee and will likely include advanced statistical analysis methodologies as advanced study in quantitative and/or qualitative research methodologies from departments and colleges outside of Agricultural Education & Communications (e.g. Educational Psychology). Required courses are:
• AGED 5302 Research Methods and Analysis in Agricultural Education and Communications
• AGED 5312 Assessing Program Effectiveness in Agriculture and Extended Education
• EDCI 5386 Constructivist Inquiry Methodologies in Curriculum and Instruction

Dissertation (12 hours over required course credit hours)

The proposed doctoral degree program will require all students to complete a dissertation representing independent work completed by the student.
• AGED 8000 – Doctor’s Dissertation (V1-12)

Required Experience Plan

All doctoral students in consultation with their major professor and graduate committee are expected to develop a written experience plan to be approved along with their program of study. Expectations for the experience plan and a listing of example opportunities follows.